

1                   CRYPTOGRAPHIC MODULE FOR SECURE PROCESSING  
                    OF VALUE-BEARING ITEMS

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           An on-line value bearing item (VBI) printing system that  
includes one or more cryptographic modules and a central database is  
disclosed. The cryptographic modules are capable of implementing the  
USPS Information Based Indicia Program Postal Security Device  
Performance Criteria and other required VBI standards. The modules  
10 encipher the information stored in the central database for all of  
the on-line VBI system customers and are capable of preventing access  
to the database by unauthorized users. Additionally, the  
cryptographic module is capable of preventing unauthorized and  
undetected modification, including the unauthorized modification,  
15 substitution, insertion, and deletion of VBI related data and  
cryptographically critical security parameters.

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